

Martin Luther King Jr.: Global beacon for human rights

Martin Luther King Jr.'s  statue adorns London's famed Westminster Abbey alongside El Salvador's Archbishop Óscar Romero. (© AP Images)

[Martin Luther King Jr.](#) is renowned as the hero who fought and died to end racial discrimination and advance civil rights in the United States. But his influence and inspiration is felt well beyond his home country.

Streets and boulevards named after King can be found all over the world, from Niger to Australia, Brazil to Germany. There is a park named for him in Paris, a church in Debrecen, Hungary, a school in Yaounde, Cameroon, and even a bridge in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

During his life, King consciously connected his struggle for domestic equality [with international concerns](#). He was an outspoken critic of South Africa's apartheid government and European colonialism in Africa. He supported land reforms for peasants in Latin America and saw poverty as an international human rights issue.

King and the American civil rights movement helped inspire the [1965 adoption](#) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the first international human rights treaty after the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

But King's legacy is perhaps felt the most through his philosophy, which adopted nonviolence and championed human dignity, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent campaign to end British rule in India. King in turn has inspired others to change their societies through nonviolent means, from the Solidarity movement's cracking of Soviet occupation in Poland to Nelson Mandela's struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.

Today, nearly 50 years after his assassination, many are still continuing to act upon the global meaning of King's statement that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

5 Components of a Fundraising Plan

Virtually all businesses, including nonprofits, need operating funds. As Peter McFarren puts it in the ["Components of a Fundraising Plan"](#) lesson, "You can run a business without profit, but you can't

run a business without cash flow. You need cash flow to be sustainable.”

If you want to launch or grow a nonprofit organization, consider developing a fundraising plan. Like a [business plan](#), a fundraising plan details how you intend to grow (or sustain) your organization while accounting for any challenges you may face along the way. Not only is a fundraising plan useful for securing funds from potential donors and/or grants, it also can help you think through some tough questions to ensure you are positioned to succeed.

So what goes into a fundraising plan? Below is an outline of the key components:

1. **Executive Summary:** A statement detailing the mission, vision, goals, and objectives of your organization. What is your overarching goal? What change(s) will your organization effect in the short-and long-term? How is it different from other nonprofit businesses in the space?
2. **Organizational Structure:** An overview of your organization's legal, management, and financial structure. How does your organization operate on a day-to-day basis? Is your current setup sustainable, both from a financial and personnel perspective?
3. **Strategic Objectives:** A summary of measurable objectives (e.g., milestones) that correspond with your overarching goal, along with an explanation of how you intend to achieve them. How many people will your product or service serve, and by when? How will you measure progress?
4. **Timeline & Budget:** A list of your organization's capital and operating expenses, fixed and variable costs, assets and liabilities. What funds are needed? What will they be used for? What is the return on investment that will result from your organization or project?
5. **Marketing:** A plan for how you intend to promote your nonprofit and make its mission and services (or products) known to your intended constituents as well as the general public. Who is your target audience? What are the best channels to communicate with them? Will you rely on a single spokesperson or a team of marketers?

If you're having trouble answering some of the questions listed above, we recommend beginning with our resource on [Developing a Value Proposition](#) (1 MB) before proceeding with a fundraising plan.

Always remember that the purpose of a fundraising plan is to demonstrate that you have a strong vision and a carefully devised strategy, and have taken steps to minimize risk. As Mandela Washington Fellow Adepeju Jaiyeoba [said in her Facebook Live session](#), “People who give also want value for their money too...trust plays a key role in raising funds.”

For someone with a disability, what does accessibility mean?

To most people [Faith Njahira Wangari](#), a 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow from Kenya, doesn't appear to have a disability. She does not normally use a cane, wheelchair or any other support

device to get around. But Njahira lives with muscular dystrophy, which causes progressive weakness and the loss of muscle mass.

"You don't look like someone who has a disability," she often hears from people when she tries to use reserved parking spots or asks where the nearest elevator is. "Is there a way that they are supposed to appear? What makes you think I am not one of them?" she answers.

Because many do not recognize her needs, she has learned to become a stronger advocate for others living with a disability and its effects.

"My 4-year-old niece has more energy and strength than I do," Njahira said. It helps explain why normal morning routines — like getting from a sleeping position to one where she can stand and get out of bed, then shower, dress and eat — all take tremendous effort and planning. And this is in the comfort of her own home, where she has control of her environment. It becomes even more challenging once she starts the rest of her day in the outside world.

"I need to distribute energy in a way that will ensure that I have enough to get through the day without being fatigued or falling. That's the first thing that goes through my mind," she said.

(Social Security Administration)



In her [blog](#), Njahira shared "[The Spoon Theory](#)," which she calls "the best explanation so far" to help others understand what it is like for her. It was written by Christine Miserandino, who suffers from lupus. She compared the limited energy she has in a given day to having a set number of spoons she can give out, factoring in variables like the weather, distances to travel, chores and social obligations in addition to daily tasks.

"When other people can simply do things, I have to attack it and make a plan like I am strategizing a war," Miserandino wrote. For Njahira, the spoon theory helps her explain to a friend why a decision to buy food may mean she can't meet them socially later that day. Or why she must cancel her participation in a meeting because it is being held at a venue that requires her to walk up a flight of stairs.

"People will say, 'Oh, we're so sorry,' but sorry doesn't cut it," she has had to explain. "You invited me, and I confirmed. You knew I couldn't use the stairs to come up to your meeting." She has even concluded, "Maybe you don't want me in your meeting."

Accessibility in public places has advanced in the United States largely because of the legal requirements set by the government through the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#). Njahira said in Kenya the private sector has been much better at making shops, schools and other places safer and easier to access. By contrast, getting many essential public services can be very difficult for someone with a disability. For example, Njahira's local passport office has a flight of stairs that everyone must navigate. There is no alternative.

"I feel really angry while watching people with disabilities — either someone who is totally [blind](#) nearly missing a step because they can't come down every step or watching someone in a wheelchair having to be carried up those stairs either by the guards or the policemen on the premises, or watching someone using a cane or crutches stumble and actually take risks going up and down the

stairs," she said. "I don't think [the management] cares because if they did they would have actually done something about this."

Along with helping people with disabilities create a more accessible world, the rest of us could also help reduce their marginalization just by interacting with them. Njahira said a local [albinism awareness](#) organization has the slogan "Don't Stare. Ask!"

"That's what I would tell anyone," she said. "I don't think people realize that their face communicates as much as their words," or imagine what it feels like for someone with an obvious disability when a room falls silent as they enter.

Asking questions is much preferable to making assumptions. For example, if someone with a disability shows up at a hospital, don't just direct them to physical therapy or some other department. "Maybe they're there to see a friend. Why assume just because they have a disability they are sick?" she said. For Njahira, having someone ask her why she doesn't walk like other people gives her an opportunity to make them more aware of muscular dystrophy. But that's not all.

"Some people have the idea that the only thing a person with a disability can talk about is their disability," she said. "It only takes a few minutes for people to realize I can engage with them about much more."

Country of the Week: Rwanda

Our first featured member of the week, Augustin Rugundana, calls civic engagement one of the most important issues in his community. After building his skills through YALI Network courses such as [Community Organizing for Action](#), [Servant Leadership](#), and [Management Strategies for People and Resources](#), Augustin decided to help others tackle the issue by organizing inter-university events and debate competitions on topics like governance and public service delivery. 

Augustin, who lives in Kigali, says the events targeted intellectuals from universities and other higher education institutions in hopes of identifying "quick messengers and potential partners" to "drive social and economic transformation" and "to empower and enhance their capacity and sense of responsibility." Lectures during the events drew on lessons learned in his YALI Network Online Courses and focused on "leadership, democracy, and youth participation in civic matters and their role in influencing policies that affect our lives."

"In short," Augustin says, "you can't fight for your rights... if you are not informed or responsible." To pass on these lessons, participants have decided to create leadership clubs "to continuously institutionalize leadership values and good governance... among the emerging generation."

Our next featured member this week, Diocres Barabwiriza, took a personal approach to sharing what he has learned from the YALI Network Online Courses on [Understanding the Rights of Women and](#)

[Girls](#), [Design-Driven Entrepreneurship](#), and [Fundamentals of Business Expansion](#). Instead of planning large events, Diocres decided to host two intimate conversations with fellow students in Ngoma on the issues he cares about most.



The first, a discussion with male classmates about the rights of women and girls, focused on issues like consent and gender equality in the workplace. He shared the importance of making financial plans together, as a family, that respect the contributions of both husband and wife to the household income. “I wanted to share,” Diocres says, “... what I learned from the YALI Network Online Courses by discussing, as teenagers, how we can promote and empower women in our country.”

The second conversation, with eight classmates, gave Diocres an opportunity to pass on the lessons he learned in the business and entrepreneurship courses. Many of his classmates are interested in finding jobs in community pharmacies, so Diocres says he “clarified the way we could set up our future by explaining to my colleagues how we could start our pharmacy careers” with the end goal of “having our own pharmacy” in mind.

“From here,” Diocres says, “we discussed the different methods of saving we can use, so that we can prepare to have our own pharmacy.”

Our last featured member from Rwanda, Justin Byiringiro Muregera, says that “as we Rwandan youth struggle to rebuild our country, unity and reconciliation is the master key to achieve our dreams.”



Justin, who is from Musanze, was inspired to reach for that goal after attending a U.S. Embassy event. After the Ambassador encouraged students to get involved in the YALI Network, he applied for and was accepted into a training program at the [YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa in Kenya](#), where he focused on public management. “By attending the training in Kenya,” he says, he increased his skills “not only in public management, but also in entrepreneurship and knowing myself to achieve my dream.”

Since completing the program, Justin has hosted three #YALILearns events — one to teach local potato farmers about the effects of climate change on food productivity, one to encourage university students to improve their skills by joining the YALI Network, and another using art to educate the public on peace building. “After graduation,” he says, “all the skills that I learned from the YALI Network are helping me to change my community by inspiring them using art, mentoring, workshops and working with other youth to rebuild our post-genocide Rwanda.”

Country of the Week: Cameroon

Fanny Bessem, from Buea, goes to local



schools in her region every week to teach creative leadership, public speaking and talent development to young girls.

Congratulations, Cameroon — you're the YALI Network Country of the Week! We are so inspired by your leadership, creativity and commitment to your fellow Cameroonians. Like Fanny Bessem from Buea (above) says, we are strong because "we all support each other."

Read on to learn more about the three young Cameroonian leaders we're featuring this week, and about all the impressive work they're doing that makes them so remarkable!

First, we turn to Vumomsi Ngwefonta'a, a budding fashion designer from Bamenda. After receiving YALI certificates in [Design-Driven Entrepreneurship](#) and [Workforce Collaboration and Development](#), Vumomsi decided to combine her passion for fashion and desire to help others by hosting #YALILearns events for students of local technical schools in her "Fashion Lab."



Vumomsi, who has hosted six trainings so far, says she chose this model "because technical schools in Cameroon are failing to provide students and girls with the relevant skills and knowledge they need to be economically independent."

For her hard work, Vumomsi was recently chosen to be a guest speaker for Global Entrepreneurship Week at the U.S. Embassy in Yaoundé. "It's been an immense fulfillment for me to assist other fellows in their YALI events and hosting business and entrepreneurship events in our Fashion Lab," she says. "I'm glad to say that our lab is now open for 20 young girls to come in when they can to work on their skills, execute their projects and understand the business of fashion."

"We mentor them to become great entrepreneurs and to be the change Cameroon deserves."

Our next featured member, Eline Bassey Dimithe Bang from Yaoundé, founded a "Green Ladies" association that empowers young women in her community "to develop greening habits at home and to take action for the protection of the environment."

With the help of the Cameroon government, Eline and her Green Ladies hosted a #YALIGoesGreen event in Garoua called "Operation 1,000 Trees," fighting deforestation by planting over a thousand trees in the region. She was also recognized by the U.S. Embassy in Yaoundé for her great work.

Our final featured member this week, Desmond Atanga from Bamenda, calls the YALI Network "like my everyday breakfast — it nourishes me with invaluable skills that I use to be a great servant leader and in tackling pressing issues in my community."

Desmond is applying these skills in support of women and girls by "working to bring comprehensive sexuality education to over four million youths in Cameroon by 2025" through a project run by Deserve Cameroon.

"With my #YALILearns know-how and YALI Network courses," Desmond says, "I led a successful campaign by garnering support from the grassroots" that won him meetings with top-level officials in the Ministry of Secondary Education. "Consequently," he says, "17 government

officials signed a commitment to have the syllabus taught in Cameroon secondary schools." So far, over 110 students in Kumbo and Bali "have been engaged as ambassadors for gender equality."

"Having hosted three #YALILearns events, I am very proud to be a member of this esteemed network. My work in my community and country, Cameroon, is witnessing a more impactful influence owing to my belonging to this marvelous network!"

Message from U.S. Ambassador Michael S. Hoza to Cameroon's YALI Network

It is an honor to congratulate you on your extraordinary achievements, dedication, and commitment as young leaders throughout Cameroon. When President Obama launched the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) in 2010, his aim was to enhance young Africans' leadership skills, promote entrepreneurship, and connect young African leaders with one another and with Americans. In order to empower even more African youth with skills and networks to improve their projects and organizations, President Obama launched the YALI Network in 2014 – a portal of online courses that provides members with invaluable opportunities to connect with other leaders in their

(U.S. Embassy Yaounde)



community and to learn from experts in their field. The increased interest in these courses and in the YALI community has made the network grow from 130,000 members in 2014 to over 400,000 young African leaders in 2016. Cameroon, with 11,439 members including 1,649 YALI Network Online Course certificate holders, is one of the Top 10 African countries with the highest number of YALI Network members. That is a testament to the dynamism and extraordinary talents of Cameroonians. It also means a lot to me personally that so many youth see in the United States of America a partner committed to promote their own talents, vision, and contributions to promote development in partnership with their fellow citizens, especially women and girls whose efforts are necessary to truly achieve development goals in all nations. Cameroonians all around this nation have pushed their engagement further by getting actively involved in the YALI campaigns such as #Africa4Her, #YALILearns, #YALIVotes and #YALIGoesGreen. The YALI Network members raised awareness and took action, both online and in their communities, on climate change awareness, women's empowerment and gender-equity issues, health, civic engagement, and education for all. We are proud of the work you have accomplished from Garoua to Mbalmayo, Bertoua to Bamenda, Douala to Yaounde, Buea to Baffoussam. We hope you will keep using the YALI online courses to grow your knowledge and hone your skills, and are proud to reaffirm America's commitment to support your work as you continue to positively transform the lives of citizens in your communities. On est ensemble!

Podcast « YALI Voices » : pour ce fellow du Benin, le développement des jeunes est un antidote à la violence

Il est important de s'engager pour une cause. C'est ce que pense Michel Okan. Et selon lui, plus on le fait tôt, plus on en comprend la valeur. Sa cause à lui, ce sont ses activités avec les jeunes dans le cadre de son travail : il s'efforce de leur donner accès à l'éducation, à des ressources et à des projets axés sur la stabilité de la société et la réduction du risque de leur implication dans des actes violents.

Une bonne cause peut solliciter de notre part un engagement à vie. « C'est comme si on ne peut que faire que ça. Je peux dire que c'est ce que je suis en train de faire, ce que je suis en train de devenir », explique-t-il à Caroline Groussain, du département d'État, dans un podcast « YALI Voices » en français.

Michel Okan s'exprime lors du Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit de 2016. (Twitter)

Michel Okan, qui est béninois, a participé à la Mandela Washington Fellowship en 2015. Le programme permet d'améliorer les compétences en leadership déjà acquises ou d'en fournir à ceux qui en ont besoin. Mais il « n'est pas une fin en soi », estime-t-il. Il est important de se remettre en question pour s'améliorer continuellement et pour prendre davantage de responsabilités.

Pour lui, dans la pratique, cela signifie « travailler avec les jeunes de façon à ce qu'ils aient un état d'esprit d'indépendance, d'indépendance de penser, de faire et d'agir, mais pour la bonne cause ».

En septembre 2016, Michel Okan est intervenu au Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit*, le sommet mondial sur les opportunités économiques pour les jeunes. Il y a discuté de la situation des jeunes qui vivent dans des zones de conflit et de l'importance d'anticiper les facteurs qui les mènent à l'extrémisme violent.

« La violence n'est que le résultat des frustrations, ce n'est que le résultat de ce qui est mal fait quelque part, par certains, par quelqu'un », souligne-t-il dans le podcast.

Même si les gens ne savent pas comment la violence commence, il est possible de savoir comment l'éviter, affirme-t-il. Pour cela, il faut travailler avec les outils déjà disponibles, tels la constitution et le processus démocratique.

« Ce n'est pas une responsabilité uniquement des hommes publics ; c'est une responsabilité de tout le monde, et ça part de l'éducation », insiste-t-il.

Pour en savoir plus sur Michel Okan, écoutez le podcast complet, en français.

Si vous n'avez pas accès à SoundCloud, iTunes ou Google Play, retrouvez la transcription du podcast ci-dessous :

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS (IIP)
“YALI Voices Podcast:
Michel Okan”
Transcript

Bienvenue à vous, chers jeunes leaders africains ! Vous écoutez le podcast YALI Voices, les voix de YALI. Ici, on partage avec vous certains des meilleurs témoignages de l’Initiative pour les jeunes leaders africains. Je m’appelle Caroline Groussain et je suis contente que vous soyez à l’écoute aujourd’hui. Avant de commencer, n’oubliez pas de vous abonner aux podcasts sur iTunes et Google Play, et rendez-vous sur yali.state.gov pour vous tenir au courant de l’actualité de YALI.

Aujourd’hui j’ai discuté avec Michel Okan. Michel est un ancien participant au programme Mandela Washington Fellowship. Il a 36 ans, il est diplômé d’économie et il est né et a grandi au Bénin. Mais c’est ailleurs, et sur une toute autre voie, que la vie l’a mené. Michel vit aujourd’hui au Mali, où il travaille pour la paix. Plus qu’un travail, la paix est devenue sa vie. Et c’est vraiment ce qui se dégage de lui quand on lui parle. La paix, le calme, l’humilité, mais aussi un esprit on ne peut plus déterminé. Comment les jeunes peuvent-ils apporter des solutions pacifiques aux problèmes rencontrés dans la société ? C’est une des questions sur lesquelles il travaille.

Mais revenons à l’interview de Michel…

CG : Michel, on est bien contents de vous recevoir ici aujourd’hui.

MO : Merci beaucoup.

CG : Donc vous êtes arrivé hier soir à Washington. Vous êtes ce matin ici avec nous pour ce podcast. Vous allez ensuite enchaîner avec le Sommet mondial sur les opportunités économiques pour les jeunes, le Global Youth Economic Opportunity Summit. Vous avez un emploi du temps de ministre ! C’est quoi ce sommet ?

MO : Ce sommet parle des opportunités économiques des jeunes à travers le monde et les griefs qu’ils ont, et quel apport de solutions, qu’est-ce qu’on connaît des jeunes, qu’est-ce qu’on ne connaît pas d’eux, et comment apporter ces solutions à certains de leurs problèmes pour la paix et le développement durable.

CG : C’est quelque chose sur lequel vous travaillez ?

MO : Oui, c’est quelque chose sur laquelle je travaille tous les jours. Je travaille au sein des Nations unies comme chargé de programme qui s’occupe des projets à impact rapide. Et c’est des petits projets qui sont mis en œuvre au profit des populations les plus affectées par le conflit. Moi, en tant que jeune ayant la chance de gérer ce programme au Mali pour les Nations unies, particulièrement dans le nord, je me vois dans la responsabilité de faire plus attention à la jeunesse en matière de paix et de développement.

CG : Comment vous êtes-vous retrouvé à faire ce que vous faites aujourd’hui ?

MO : Je n'avais pas imaginé dans mes activités en tant que travailleur pour les communautés impacter directement les communautés parce que je suis plus intéressé par les activités qui impactent directement les communautés, la population...

CG : En fait, vous avez fait des études d'économie, c'est ça ?

MO : Oui, oui. Donc je suis plus intéressé par ce genre de projets. C'est à dire, je vois les choses réalisées de la sorte que la population est bénéficiaire directement sur ça que des impacts indirects, c'est à dire que ça ne part pas d'une administration publique d'abord — je suis plus intéressé que la population soit bénéficiaire direct que ça. Mais je n'ai jamais imaginé que j'allais me trouver dans un contexte où je vais gérer les projets pour la paix. Je n'ai pas imaginé. Même si je me suis dit une fois dans ma tête si ça arrivait, je vais pouvoir réussir mais je suis en train de le faire maintenant. Je crois que beaucoup de jeunes aussi veulent le faire.

CG : Mais votre expérience passée vous aide certainement aujourd'hui, n'est-ce pas ?

MO : Oui. Oui. Parce qu'avant d'aller même faire ça, j'ai travaillé sur les projets d'élection, pour une élection au Bénin. Je vois comment les élections, comment c'est important pour la paix parce que la prévention des conflits passe aussi par l'élection. Je prends le cas de mon pays en 2011, peu s'en fallait, à cause de l'outil qui allait servir pour une bonne élection pour une bonne élection, peu s'en fallait. Aujourd'hui tout le monde est fier d'être Béninois parce qu'au moins c'est une démocratie et la population a accepté les résultats. C'est une fierté.

CG : En parlant d'élections, justement, comment est-ce qu'on peut empêcher la violence liée aux élections ? Qu'est-ce que vous conseillez aux gens qui n'acceptent pas les résultats du scrutin ?

MO : C'est de tout faire pour qu'on y n'arrive pas, comment faire pour ne pas arriver là. C'est ça qui est plus important. Parce que la violence n'est que le résultat des frustrations, ce n'est que le résultat de ce qui est mal fait quelque part, par certains, par quelqu'un. Ce que je vois c'est, comment faire pour ne pas arriver là ? Parce que, quand ça commence... On ne sait pas en réalité comment ça... J'observe que les gens ne savent réellement pas comment ça commence. Mais on sait comment faire pour ne pas arriver là. Mais pourquoi ne pas utiliser ce qu'on sait ? Et c'est ce qu'on ne sait pas ce à quoi on veut toujours s'attaquer. Et ce qu'on sait, on parle des institutions, dans certains pays, constitution, la démocratie... tout ce qu'on sait autour de ça. On sait tout ça, là. C'est de faire ce qu'on sait pour que — pour qu'on n'y aille pas, au lieu de s'attaquer à ce qu'on ne sait pas. Tout le monde connaît la paix. Mais on ne veut pas utiliser la paix. On veut aller à la violence. C'est un état d'esprit et cet état d'esprit doit être manifesté dans tout ce qu'on fait, à tous les niveaux. Ce n'est pas une responsabilité uniquement des hommes publics, c'est une responsabilité de tout le monde, et ça part de l'éducation. Le contexte dans lequel tout homme dès qu'il est né, je parle d'homme grand "H", le tout contexte dans lequel on lui transmet certains acquis culturels qui perdurent, qui déterminent sa vie, du début de sa vie jusqu'à la fin de sa vie, il faudrait intégrer des éléments qui le préparent, ce qui lui fait accepter la paix, qui le fait manifester la paix...

CG : Une éducation dès l'enfance...

MO : Oui, l'éducation, de façon globale.

CG : Puisqu'on parle d'éducation, qu'est-ce que vous avez appris au sein du programme Mandela Washington Fellowship. Quel impact le programme a eu sur vous ?

MO : Le programme a renforcé ce que je suis en tant que jeune. C'est comme si je me retrouve à avoir pris un engagement au vu et au su de tout le monde, devant des grands regards. Un

engagement pour aller jusqu'au bout d'impacter positivement le monde. Et je dois tout faire pour le réussir. C'est comme si j'ai pris le chemin de non-retour pour impacter positivement.

CG : OK. Grande responsabilité !

MO : Grande responsabilité. Donc c'est comme tu portes une étiquette et tu dois tout faire pour la mériter, pour la conserver. Parce qu'on te cite comme exemple pour d'autres. Donc tu n'as plus le droit, tu n'as plus intérêt à faire chemin — demi-tour par un manque peut-être en faisant face à des difficultés au quoi... .

CG : Et le YALI Network, est-ce que vous pourriez nous donner un exemple d'activités auxquelles vous participez ?

MO : Je participe vraiment à des activités d'échange avec les jeunes, partage d'information, formation. La preuve est faite, quand j'ai parlé aux jeunes, je leur ai parlé de l'opportunité de YALI. La limite partagée par tous les jeunes, c'est l'anglais. Moi je leur ai dit, moi je suis né au Bénin, j'ai grandi au Bénin. Je parle l'anglais moyennement qui me permet de me faire comprendre, de comprendre les gens quand ils parlent. Je n'ai pas été dans un pays anglophone étudier l'anglais. Je leur ai dit - beaucoup d'entre eux ont actuellement là 18 ans, 20 ans. C'est 35 ans la limite de YALI. Il faudrait qu'ils saisissent cette opportunité, en pensant que le YALI va continuer, tout autre programme comme fulbright va continuer. Donc de saisir cette opportunité de renforcer leur anglais à partir de maintenant en disant d'ici deux ans, trois ans, je serai bon en anglais pour pouvoir saisir les opportunités. Et là, ça a généré un programme de formation en anglais que je donne aux jeunes avec un collègue qui s'appelle Daniel Massamba. On forme les jeunes de Gao en anglais jusqu'à aujourd'hui. On forme les jeunes.

CG : Ça vous paraît important de s'engager pour une cause ?

MO : C'est très important de s'engager. Si on s'engage un peu plus tôt, on connaît plus la valeur. Non seulement on connaît l'importance, mais aussi ça devient la vie qu'on vit. Et ça n'a plus de différence, c'est comme si on ne peut que faire que ça. Je peux dire que c'est ce que je suis en train de faire, ce que je suis en train de devenir.

CG : Quel message aimeriez-vous faire passer aux jeunes du YALI Network qui ont envie de faire bouger les choses ?

MO : Bon, je vais parler comme tout le monde, je vais leur donner du courage. Mais, je vais aussi dire, être YALI, avoir participé au programme YALI n'est pas une fin en soi. Parce que moi je comprends, c'est un programme soit qui t'améliore par rapport aux qualités de leadership que tu as, ou bien qui te donne des qualités de leadership que tu n'as pas. N'importe lequel des cas, quand tu as participé à YALI, ça ne veut pas dire que tu ne vas jamais te remettre en cause sur certaines qualités que tu n'as pas encore qui te permettent d'avoir un bon emploi ou bien qui te permettent d'avoir ce que tu veux. Ça ne veut pas dire que les gens n'ont pas..., je ne suis pas en train de dire que les gens n'ont pas ces qualités ou bien qu'ils ne font pas de leur mieux. Mais il ne faut pas se dire qu'on a déjà assez fait, qu'on ne doit pas s'améliorer. Il ne faut pas aussi se dire, bon parce que je porte l'étiquette YALI, c'est déjà suffisant pour que les gens me considèrent à tel poste ou bien à telle responsabilité.

CG : C'est à dire ? Aller sur internet... ?

MO : Oui, aller sur internet, aussi, c'est un état d'ouverture d'esprit qu'il faut plus accepter. Je parle, parce que, ce n'est pas tous les jeunes de Gao, c'est vrai. Je vais citer un exemple : l'année

passée, une de mes activités qui consistait à rassembler les jeunes et à leur parler, et à renforcer leur leadership et consort, j'ai choisi un thème au moment de la période des candidatures de YALI pour les motiver à postuler au programme YALI et au même moment préparer leur esprit à être ouvert pour d'autres opportunités car ce n'est pas YALI seul qui va leur permettre d'être un leader dans leur communauté. Donc j'ai partagé mon expérience avec eux, avec des collègues. Ça ne m'a pas choqué, la réponse d'un jeune, un des jeunes leaders, qui disait oui, tout ce que j'ai dit, que c'est vrai, la jeunesse de Gao, ils n'ont pas besoin de ça, ils n'ont qu'à vivre leur vie ici et... pour dire de façon ramassée, lui, il n'est pas pour. Il y a plein de ces gens comme ça qui influencent les jeunes comme ça, pas uniquement à Gao, mais c'est partout. Et si je vais faire une autre recommandation, c'est de travailler avec les jeunes de façon à ce qu'ils aient un état d'esprit d'indépendance, d'indépendance de penser, de faire et d'agir, mais pour la bonne cause, pour la bonne cause. Heureusement après, beaucoup de jeunes sont venus vers moi, même certains sages qui ont participé à l'activité. Ils m'ont encouragé, ils m'ont dit de ne pas faire vraiment attention à ce que le jeune là, il vient de dire, qu'il ne comprend pas encore et il aura le temps de comprendre. Et ce qui a confirmé effectivement que les jeunes ont compris, une semaine après cet atelier de motivation en leadership, YALI et consort, mon téléphone sonne - il dit : « Oui, Monsieur Michel, on voudrait te voir, on voudrait que tu participes à une réunion le dimanche prochain ». Je dis : « Quelle réunion ? » Ils disent ils ont créé un club qu'ils ont appelé YALI à Gao. Donc c'est comme ça, le club est lancé et le club fonctionne jusqu'à présent.

CG : Garder un esprit ouvert et une indépendance de pensée et d'action, on va s'arrêter sur cette note positive. Merci beaucoup Michel d'avoir pris le temps de répondre à nos questions. Et on vous souhaite une très bonne semaine aux États-Unis.

MO : Je ne vais pas finir cet entretien sans remercier tous les gestionnaires de programme, YALI, le gouvernement américain, tous les autres jeunes, toute cette organisation qui m'a permis d'être ici, vous aussi, tous ceux qui contribuent de près et de loin au programme de YALI, tous les autres jeunes, je salue tout le monde. Je vais tenir mon engagement, je tiens mon engagement.

CG : Bonne journée à tous.

J'ai passé un très bon moment en compagnie de Michel. C'est vraiment une personne qui a beaucoup de qualités, qui comprend le sens du service public et qui sait saisir les opportunités de networking offertes par YALI.

Encore merci à Michel d'avoir passé un moment avec nous pour partager son expérience. Revenez sur YALI Voices. Écoutez nos podcasts avec des jeunes leaders africains et laissez-vous inspirer par leurs expériences.

La musique de notre générique "E - Go Happen," est composée par Grace Jerry et produite par Presidential Precinct. Les podcasts YALI Voices sont produits par le département d'État des États-Unis dans le cadre de l'initiative YALI pour les jeunes leaders africains financée par le gouvernement des États-Unis. Merci à tous.

Use your phone to promote human rights

(© AP Images)



The information revolution unleashed by mobile technology has made it possible for nearly everyone to be what the United Nations calls a “[civilian witness](#)” to help promote human rights.

Along with apps that you can download to your phone, SMS and games are being used for human rights and conflict-resolution purposes, said Theo Dolan, director of [PeaceTech Lab](#) Africa, based in Kenya. You can even help fight human trafficking by taking pictures of your hotel room with the app [TraffickCam](#).

“These are not just tools for the elite,” Dolan said. “These are tools that can be used by anyone.”

Many are already familiar with crowdsourcing apps like [Ushahidi](#), [Carto](#) and [Mapbox](#) and how they have mapped [natural disasters, epidemics and civil unrest](#).

Dolan offered some examples of crowdsourcing for human rights that PeaceTech Lab has helped communities develop to address their specific needs:

- To counter gender-based violence in Mumbai, India, a group of 12- and 13-year-old girls developed an app to crowdsource incidents and identify problem areas, such as bus lines where attacks were most frequent. They can also use the app to send early warning and early response messages to their wider network.
- In Iraq, journalists developed an app to track attacks on their peers not only to document the incidents but also to help determine the nature of threats to the media and the source of the attacks.
- For Kenya’s upcoming elections, PeaceTech Lab is updating an SMS platform and providing training to community members to document election violence and misinformation. It will function with a core team to independently verify reported incidents and send out messaging to defuse tensions before incidents occur.

Non-Crowdsourcing Apps

Collin Sullivan, a program associate for human rights at the nonprofit organization [Benetech](#), said today’s apps can serve a wide range of human rights uses, depending on what is of concern. Do you want to prove that the photo you took is genuine? Do you want to document an event but protect the identity of some of the people involved (including yourself)? Do you need to protect your internet privacy or encrypt your data? Are you coping with low bandwidth? Sullivan said app developers have been addressing these types of concerns.

Benetech developed the software and app program [Martus](#) as a free, open-source and encrypted information management system that can be used to organize, back up and share information securely. After Martus is installed on a desktop computer, its mobile app allows users to feed it anything from photos and videos to interviews and scanned documents but preserves the privacy and identity of the users and makes backups in case a device or phone is stolen. The app also works

at low bandwidth and offline, allowing users to collect information into an encrypted package that sits on their phones until they export it through an internet connection, memory card or USB cable.

For photos, [CameraV](#) from the Guardian Project helps users verify the legitimacy of images in case they are disputed or claimed as fake. It collects all kinds of metadata for each image, going beyond the phone model, time, date and location to include information on nearby Wi-Fi networks and Bluetooth connections, the height of the camera, and other data that provide more proof of a photo's accuracy.

Guardian also developed [ObscuraCam](#), which does the opposite by stripping out all of the metadata in an image to anonymize it and make it easy to blur faces to prevent them from being recognized by facial recognition technology.

If you are new to the field of documenting and reporting incidents, the app [StoryMaker](#) can train you on how to compile a compelling story, including how to set up a shot for an interview or develop an interesting storyline, and it offers templates and other suggestions for production value.

Some words of warning

Gathering data on human rights often carries a certain amount of risk, both to yourself and to those you are documenting. For data you are capturing with your phone, it is always important to be mindful of the need to protect identities and privacy.

"Intimidation of witnesses, of victims who are reporting, is a very real thing in lots of different places, so if you can keep the names of the people you talked to and their contact information private, that's all the better," Sullivan said.

He also said that those interested in using privacy or encryption tools like [Tor](#), [Psiphon](#) or [Signal](#) should be aware that they risk elevating their profile with authorities, hackers or others who might be able to tell they are being used.

"There is this risk that maybe nobody is watching what you're doing now and you start using Tor or Signal, and then they start watching what you're doing. They start asking why is this guy using encryption? What does he have to hide? And then they start monitoring what he's doing," he said.

Fortunately, some of the world's most popular sites and apps like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and WhatsApp have been integrating security and identity protection features that make human rights reporting safer and anonymous, Sullivan said. For example, when WhatsApp added signal encryption protocol on all of its messages, "they effectively turned on encryption for about a billion people overnight," he said.

"Getting some of the major providers on board with some of the features that are supportive of human rights workers and activists not only makes it a lot easier for people to use ... but the tools people are already using like WhatsApp or YouTube are becoming better for human rights defenders and activists by integrating a lot of the features we in the information security community and the human rights community have been advocating for," he said. "That's something that I think is the most encouraging trend."

Dolan said the proliferation of these kinds of tools, data and access to media through multiple channels is simply empowering.

"That's a tired word, but in this case it's hugely influential. And that sometimes transcends points about low internet access ratings. The more these tools are available through multiple channels the more people can do with them — and they are," Dolan said.

But Sullivan says it is still important for human rights advocates to remember that all of these are ultimately just tools, and that technology is "at best only 50 percent of the solution." Advocacy also requires developing an effective strategy, targeted advocacy and other factors.

"These things can help. They are definitely not the solution to all of our problems," he said.

For additional information, here is a chart of more apps, games and other available products, courtesy of PeaceTech Lab's Theo Dolan:

Application	What it does	Who developed it
Panic Button	A mobile app for Android that transforms a user's smartphone into a secret alarm that can be activated rapidly in the event of an emergency, alerting fellow activists and enabling them to respond faster.	Amnesty International

<p>Ripoti App</p>	<p>A mobile app that Kenyans can use to report incidents of torture and other cases of human rights violations. The app, which is available on the Google app store, enables users to take pictures, videos and audio recordings in real time or from one's gallery after which one sends it to IMLU (Independent Medico-Legal Unit).</p>	<p>IMLU (Independent Medico-Legal Unit), @iLabAfrica and Strathmore University-Kenya</p>
<p>SMS for human rights</p>	<p>Tanzanian citizens often cannot afford to file a human rights complaint or follow up on the status of a complaint being processed in a timely manner. The "SMS for Human Rights" project is creating a system that enables individuals to file complaints, check the status of previously filed complaints, and receive feedback through a web/mobile platform.</p>	<p>The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG)-Tanzania</p>

<u>MediCapt</u>	<p>A mobile application, by the Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones at Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), that helps clinicians more effectively collect, document and preserve forensic medical evidence of sexual violence to support the local prosecution of these crimes.</p>	<p><u>Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones</u> DRC</p>
<u>Haki: Chaguo Ni Lako</u>	<p>The HAKI: Chaguo Ni Lako is a fun mobile phone game designed to inspire a commitment to peace and tolerance amongst young Kenyans. It encourages dialogue and contemplation about leadership, the rights and responsibilities of Kenyan citizens, and the distribution of resources. It challenges players to reflect on the choices they make and the consequences of those choices for peace in Kenya.</p>	<p><u>Afroes</u> Kenya</p>

<u>Online Reporting</u>	An online portal that Kenyans can use to report human rights abuses without having to go to the police or the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights offices	<u>Kenya National Commission on Human Rights</u> (KNCHR) Kenya
<u>160 Girls</u>	This stand-alone mobile app was developed to help enforce protections for girls against sexual violence. It provides all the information available on the 160girls.org website without the need for an internet connection. It also provides directions to police stations in its four pilot districts so that incidents of sexual violence can be reported quickly to the police.	<u>The Equality Effect</u> , Kenya
<u>Sisi Ni Amani/Jihusishe</u>	An SMS based platform that allows community members to report cases of violence or electoral irregularity via SMS. Messages are escalated to relevant authorities and security for early response.	<u>Sisi Ni Amani</u> , The Institute for Social Accountability-Kenya

Happy New Year, YALI Network!

Happy New Year, YALI Network!

The beginning of a new year is a time of great promise. It is an opportunity to consider who we want to be in the year ahead, and what kind of mark we want to leave on the world. Recently, over email and Facebook, we have been engaged in a conversation about the future of the YALI Network. As Macon Phillips noted, the future of the Network is what each of you — working individually and together — makes of it. At this time of renewal, we hope each of you will reflect on what the YALI Network means to YOU, and think about how YOU will leave your mark.

Here are some of the comments you shared about how you are making a difference and drawing inspiration from the YALI Network!

I started an international campaign on climate change because of the courses I got through YALI... We hope to have message to reach in every country in Africa on mitigating climate change in the world.

— Author Olden Hamabibi, Zambia



YALI is a family and YALI is a movement that embodies changemaking and social entrepreneurship.
I am YALI. I am Change.

— Chi Mezie, Nigeria

Education is the only equalizer between the poor and the rich. I stand with girls by promoting girl child right to education through my own initiative called Liberty scholarships... My goal is to reach as many as 10,000 girl in the next 5-7 years.

— Liberty Kandulu, Malawi



2017 is going to be an exciting year. There will be more new courses, new resources, and exciting initiatives to help you in your communities. Ultimately, though, the success of the YALI Network is dependent on what each of you chooses to do with your knowledge, opportunity, and passion, and we can't wait to see the difference you will make in the new year! What will your pledge be to help your community in 2017?

More than just words: Why constitutions need to include human rights

If human rights are supposed to be the rights everyone has — like free expression, equal protection and the freedom of conscience — why do they need to be codified in a country's constitution? And where do your rights stand if you live in a country where the constitution is not always respected?

Paul Graham, a project director for southern Africa at the nongovernmental watchdog organization [Freedom House](#), said it is not only important for constitutions to spell out the standard rights that everyone enjoys, but it is also important for citizens to be aware of them to better understand when their rights are being violated.

"How do you play the game when you don't even know the rule book?" Graham asked. He likened the question to a sporting match.



"You might quarrel about the rules. You might yell about that goal and whether it should have been awarded or not, but without the rule book you're not even sure you're playing the same game," he said.

It is very important to spell out what the rules are when it comes to human rights. "While they may not stop someone from having their rights abused, at least that person has some recourse. Whereas if there is no codification, it's very difficult because then they must appeal to international norms, which are under threat and to which many people are quite prejudiced," Graham said.

Graham outlined several considerations that affect a constitution's ability to uphold human rights:

- Are domestic laws in line with the constitution? If not, you have a situation where your rights may be guaranteed on paper, but you may have to go to court every time to defend them.
- Does the constitution also establish and safeguard institutions to guarantee rights? Civil society groups can raise awareness and pressure, but their power may be limited if they are not protected and able to operate according to the law.
- Are courts capable of adjudicating rights and ensuring that their decisions are implemented? More to the point: Is the judiciary dependent on the executive branch or is it independent?
- How well educated are citizens about their rights and what their constitution is supposed to protect? Does their country's educational system provide this information? Are most people literate enough to read the laws, and is the constitution readily available?
- Are nonstate actors such as criminal groups, armed factions or powerful business interests undermining the constitution or using it to gain an unfair advantage?
- Is there support for the country's constitution and democratic development from its neighbors? Along with the risk of formal and informal interference, there is also the risk of instability when neighboring states are willing to displace their own people.

The original U.S. Constitution did not contain human rights provisions, since some feared that articulating rights could limit them. But [subsequent amendments](#) to it have become the primary legal foundations that have been used by African Americans, women's suffragists, LGBTI activists and others to assert their human rights. When South Africa wrote its post-apartheid constitution, human rights were [incorporated into the document](#).

"In the long run, you've got to embed some sort of constitutional dispensation to assist you" to protect human rights, Graham said. "Otherwise, every fight is costly to you as an individual and often without precedent."
